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LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a message from the President of the Republic of Cyprus, His Excellency Mr. George Vassiliou, addressed to the people of Cyprus, on the commencement of military operations in the Gulf. I would be grateful if the text of the message could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andreas MAVROMMATIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations

READEX
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Annex

Message dated 17 January 1991 from the President of the Republic of Cyprus

It is with mixed feelings of agony and hope that the whole world and the people of Cyprus are following the military operations that were launched a few hours ago with the aim of liberating Kuwait and restoring the lawful Government of the country. It is well known that since the Iraqi invasion on 2 August great efforts have been made by leading figures throughout the world to achieve a peaceful settlement of the problem. Mankind followed with anxiety all those efforts, which culminated in the last few days in the Geneva meeting and the subsequent visit of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, to Baghdad. Unfortunately, all these efforts failed because of the invader's intransigence. It emerged clearly that the only thing Saddam Hussein was interested in was to gain time in order to consolidate in this way the occupation of Kuwait. This is a tactic of which the Cypriot people are well aware and have bitter experience. It was therefore natural that since all efforts for a peaceful solution failed the only way out was the use of armed force.

At this moment we are turning our thoughts to the allied forces who are fighting for the implementation of the United Nations resolutions and decisions for the liberation of Kuwait and we express our full solidarity with them. We like to hope that hostilities will come to an end as soon as possible with the least possible loss of life.

Here in Cyprus, as you all very well know, there is absolutely no cause for concern. All our forces are in a state of alert. We are following the situation but, I repeat, there is no reason whatsoever for concern. Consequently, people should continue their life as usual.

It is natural that many innocent people will lose their lives as a result of the military operations. Loss of human life is always tragic. We like to hope and expect, however, that this sacrifice will not be in vain because, as President Bush said in his address to the entire world a few hours ago:

> "We have before us the opportunity to forge for ourselves and for future generations a new world order, a world where the rule of law, not the law of the jungle, governs the conduct of nations. When we are successful, and we will be, we have a real chance at this new world order, an order in which a credible United Nations can use its peace-keeping role to fulfil the promise and vision of the United Nations founders."

These principles, dear compatriots, are the principles in which we have always believed and in which the Cypriot people repose their hopes for a solution to the Cyprus problem. We are confident and expect that with the implementation of these principles the turn of the Cyprus problem will come and Cyprus will no longer be a victim of invasion and occupation and our island will be reunited peacefully.